
13 Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding.
14 for the gain from her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold.
15 She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her.
18 She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.
19 The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding he established the heavens;
20 by his knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew.
21 My son, do not lose sight of these—keep sound wisdom and discretion,
22 and they will be life for your soul and adornment for your neck.

Introduction to Our Conversations

⇒ What’s the point: Meaning and purpose in the Modern world
  o The “story” of your life
  o Wayfarers
  o Virtues and formation
    ▪ The Gospel and the Virtues

What is the Purpose of Student Learning?

⇒ Credentialist, Intellectualist, Spiritualist, Maturationist - Dr. David Guthrie ’78

What is Wisdom?

"Knowledge of God and of the self and a lifestyle suitable to that knowledge."
- Augustine, On the Advantages of Believing

The Nature of Wisdom

⇒ Wisdom and the “big picture”

⇒ Wisdom and the details
  o Wisdom is specific, practical and experiential
  o Wisdom goes beyond gimmicks and formulas
  o Cultivation of wisdom forces us to confront what we love

⇒ Wisdom and formation
  o The gospel once more: What we are promised to be
  o Our desires are not too strong but too weak

⇒ Wisdom as countercultural
The Epistemic Effect of Our Practices and Habitual Routines

⇒ Our actions shape our loves. Our loves shape our knowledge.

“What the heart loves, the will chooses and the mind justifies.” - Thomas Cranmer

Application (To academics, community, leadership | Suggested habits or practices)

Let’s Talk (Discuss in groups of 3 or 4 with the people around you)

1. What are some obstacles in our daily/weekly routines that hinder the cultivation of wisdom? How does it hinder this growth? Explain.

2. What habits could you incorporate into your daily or weekly routine that would assist you in cultivating the virtue of wisdom? Why might this practice/habit lead to growth in wisdom?

3. How has this evening’s conversation on wisdom been relevant for your academic learning? For living in this Christian college community? For those with leadership roles and responsibilities in our campus community?

Cultivating the Habit of Repentance and Faith – Confession (Ash Wednesday)

Call to Confession: Psalm 51:1-4

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

Prayer of Confession

O God of Grace, Thou hast imputed our sin to our substitute, And hast imputed his righteousness to our soul, clothing us with a bridegroom’s robe, decked us with jewels of holiness. But in our Christian walk we are still in rags.... We are always standing clothed in filthy garments, and by grace are always receiving change of raiment, for thou dost always justify the ungodly; We are always going into the far country, and always returning home as a prodigal, always saying, Father, forgive us, and thou art always bringing forth the best robe.... Grant us never to lose sight of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the exceeding righteousness of salvation, the exceeding glory of Christ, the exceeding beauty of holiness, the exceeding wonder of grace. Amen.

Adapted from The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions, p. 76

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon: Psalm 51:7-8

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.